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Metro Edition

Vol. 17, No. 29

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

April 26 - May 2, 2000

50 cents

# Newark teachers cry foul



Lawrence Harris of POP

Photo by William Fraizer

By Chris Sykes

**NEWARK** — The Newark Teachers' Association is up in arms about how the cases of 65 people arraigned and prosecuted in connection with the 1989-1994 insurance fraud operation run by Dr. Carl Lichtman are being handled by the state Attorney General's Office.

Specifically, the union is questioning whether or not the defendants in the cases are being unjustly prosecuted simply because they are black. With that question in mind, the NTA held a press conference at 1 p.m. in the mansion of the Women In Support of the Million Man March on April 19.

"Is this a case of 'fighting corruption,' or is it a question of racial profiling in job suspensions and prosecutions," asked David Hungeford, the treasurer of the NTA. "Are the penalties in keeping with the offenses, or are they gravely disproportionate?"

The list of individuals and organizations who participated in the press conference included: Frederica Bey, executive director, WISOMMM, Inc.; Larry Hamm, chairman of the People's Organization for Progress; Ethel Sykes, president of the Newark Teachers' Association.

Hungeford and Sykes said all of the defendants are African-American with the exception of one or two Latinos, and they believe race has played a part in the prosecution and outcome of their cases, especially Vivian Decree, Decree, who was recently given five years in prison on charges of having received \$1,500 from Lichtman.

"Carl Lichtman submitted \$3.5 million in false claims and

See TEACHERS, page A5

# Black legislators dispute profiling bill

**ANNAPOLIS, Md.** — Legislation requiring a state study of whether race plays a role in traffic stops in Maryland emerged from a Senate committee on April 8 with just one day left in the 2000 General Assembly.

The bill would create a task force to compile records on the race and sex of the drivers involved in all routine traffic stops, whether a search was conducted and whether traffic in fighting drug trafficking.

The issue of alleged race profiling by police has been caught up in a dispute among black law-

makers in the Senate and House of Delegates. A bill that would require Maryland police officers to record the race, age and sex of every person they pull over in a traffic stop passed the House of Delegates, but was killed by the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

That committee then approved a Senate bill calling for a task force study of race-based traffic stops, and brought it before the Senate yesterday, where it got preliminary approval. The late changes in the bill raise a possibility that it will not be approved before the session ends.

Governor Parris Glendening

is among those trying to work out a compromise between the two sides. The maneuvering over the two bills reflected an escalating dispute between Delegate Howard P. Rawlings, a black Baltimore Democrat who sponsored the House bill, and black senators from Baltimore who believe he wants to control political power in the black community.

During debate on the state budget Monday, black senators assailed Rawlings for his power plays inside and outside the legislature.

The gentleman thinks he is the emperor of the African

See MARYLAND, pg. A8

# The politics of Calvary

## BLACK MINISTERS' COUNCIL CONFERENCE 2000

JUST PERMANENT INTERESTS" April 26-27, 2000



Rev. Calvin Butts address the New Jersey Black Ministers Conference

by Chris Sykes

**NEWARK** — When Calvin Butts, the pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church took to the podium at the banquet and awards reception for the first annual New Jersey Black Ministers' Conference 2000 event on April 14, there was an air of anticipation and electricity, because no one was really sure what he was

going to say. That being the case, no one felt disappointed afterward or during his address when he talked about his ongoing struggle with New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and the ramifications of it. Rev. Butts summed it up with an amusing anecdote about a donkey and the mayor's mansion.

"There was once this carriage that used a donkey — sometimes

called a jackass — to give rides through the park to tourists and others in and around Central Park that died in the middle of the street," he said.

"One day I and a traveling companion were driving along and we came across this dead jackass and we put on the hood of our car, drove to the mayor's

See REV. BUTTS, page A8

Photo by Chris Sykes

# Col. Caron Dunbar: we are watching

by Chris Sykes

**NEWARK** — Colonel Caron Dunbar of the New Jersey State Police found himself in a position he may or may not be accustomed to after a distinguished career in law enforcement: on the receiving end of what amounted to an interrogation when he appeared at the Black Ministers' Conference on April 14 to talk about racial profiling and other issues of concern to minorities.

"The minority community in New Jersey does not believe the troopers are our enemies," said Reverend Reginald Jackson, the executive director of the NJBMC and the pastor of St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church, Orange. "The Black Ministers' Council will not let this issue slide because the media glare goes away. We will not rest until these issues are resolved."

That being the case, Dunbar informed the conference attendees that the investigation of troopers John Hogan and James Hanna had uncovered no evidence of criminal wrongdoing. However, he said their cases will be turned over to the state police's internal affairs bureau, which could consider possible disciplinary action due to allegations of falsification of documents.

A spokesperson for the Attorney General's Office said there are no other criminal investigations of state troopers ongoing at this time. John Farmer, the state Attorney General, was in attendance at the NJBMC conference to back up Dunbar's assertion that the days of racial profiling are over and that steps are being taken to make sure they never come again.

"To me it doesn't matter if it's only one person that gets stopped," Dunbar said. "Profiling



Colonel Caron Dunbar

is wrong, and we are currently in the process of meeting with all 2,600 troopers and letting them know there is zero tolerance for profiling or any other discriminatory behavior."

Despite Dunbar and Farmer's assertions, many of the clergy and other black leaders at the conference said they are moving too slowly on reforms. They also had to explain why, in light of the contents of two reports detailing the problems of racial profiling of motorists and racism and discrimination within the organization itself, more than 300 promotions were made recently.

Some of the questions regarding the promotions were made in reference to published remarks from a high ranking officer in the troopers who had apparently won a record in opposition to some of the reforms being instituted. The officer in question also defended the recent promotions of James Dunbar, but for many that was not good enough.

"I think the comments that were made were well taken,"

See DUNBAR, page A8

# HUD buys guns

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — On the eve of the one year anniversary of the shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo has launched a campaign to get unwanted guns off America's streets and out of our communities.

On April 19, Cuomo, on behalf of the Clinton Administration, announced the launching of BuyBack America, an unprecedented national campaign to buy back unwanted guns and raise awareness about gun safety. Eighty-four communities, including Newark, have pledged to utilize HUD funds to purchase tens of thousands of unwanted firearms, hopefully reducing deaths and injuries caused by gun crimes, accidents and suicides.

Cuomo also announced the availability of additional funds to enable gun buybacks to occur in hundreds of more communities in the coming year.

"BuyBack America isn't just about buying back guns — it's about buying back lives that would otherwise be lost to senseless gun violence," Cuomo said. "Tragically, gun violence today is plague that is killing our children and mothers, our sisters and brothers, our wives and husbands, and even our children. Every gun we take off the street in a buyback is one less gun that can fall into the wrong hands and kill or wound an innocent victim. I encourage more communities to join us."

Mayor Sharpe James of Newark echoed Cuomo's sentiments. He said he welcomes HUD's initiative in an area

where everyone can do a little more.

"The city of Newark is proud to be part of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and other municipalities around the nation in America's Gun BuyBack initiative," he said.

In addition to Newark, the list of other New Jersey cities participating in the BuyBack initiative includes Union City, Bayonne, Paterson, Millville, Newark, Orange, and Hoboken. Each of the cities has a housing authority and will receive varying amounts of funding from HUD to participate in the program.

Tom Mauser, the father of slain Columbine student Daniel Mauser, joined Cuomo in announcing the initiative. Mauser, who has taken a leave of absence from his job and is working full-time to reduce gun violence with the group SAFE Colorado, has become an outspoken advocate for the cause. SAFE is the acronym for Safe Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic.

"I welcome this buyback program because it is an effective way of eliminating guns from our streets," Mauser said. "All of our institutions and leaders must do their part to help us reduce the terrible problem of gun violence in our country."

Cuomo was also joined by Annapolis, MD, Mayor Dean Johnson, whose city conducted its first HUD-funded gun buyback during the April 8th weekend. He was also joined by mayors whose cities will conduct their first HUD-funded buybacks as part of BuyBack America in the future.

# Off-duty officer rescues 20 Newark residents from fire

By Staff Writer

**NEWARK** — An off-duty Newark Police Sergeant was recognized by the members of the Newark City Council on April 19 for leading 20 people to safety from a fire that occurred early in the morning of April 15.

Sergeant Joseph Farina, a 14-year veteran assigned to the Director's Office Fleet Management Section, was presented with a resolution at the council's regularly scheduled meeting at the behest of at large council member Besie Walker.

"The bravery exhibited by Sergeant Farina is demonstrative of the care and concern of the Newark Police Department," said Police Director Joseph J. Santiago. "He certainly has gone not only above and beyond the call of duty of a police officer, but of an unselish human being."

Santiago said Farina disre-

garded his own personal safety to save many lives, and because of that he is a credit to his department and city.

Farina's wife, Linda, said her husband's heroes are nothing new to her or their son Vinny, 8.

"He's used to being a hero," she said. "He's a hero at home every day."

While that may or may not be the case, in typical hero fashion, Farina said he doesn't know if there was anything particularly heroic about his actions: he was just doing his job.

"The real story is that the city gives us police radios," he said. "Because of that radio, we were able to get help there quick."

Farina said neither the Fire Department nor any of the other first responders are getting any credit for fighting the fire and saving lives, but they should.

"They contained the fire that the first floor because they got there so quick," he said.

According to police, at approximately 7:05 a.m., Sergeant Joseph Farina, a 14-year-veteran, was traveling north on broad Street when he observed smoke in the air. As he tracked it to its source, police he found the residence at 49 Hill Street engulfed in smoke.

Farina immediately sprang into action, police said, and called in the fire to the Communications Division via his departmental issued radio. Then, hearing screams for help from within the building, police said he ran in through the front door and was met with a wall of smoke.

Farina's attention was then drawn to the fire escape on either side of the building, where he observed more than seven people who were stuck and could not get the first escape ladder down. He responded by piling garbage under the ladder, jumped up, grabbed a hold on the ladder, and with his weight, pulled it down to the open position so that the people could climb down to safety.

Farina then continued to climb up the ladder and guided a man down who was frozen from shock. He did the same thing on the other fire escape, bringing over 20 people to safety.

Even though Farina heard the sirens of the fire trucks approaching, he still was not sure if anyone had been evacuated from the structure, so he climbed up the fire escape and physically woke people from their sleep by breaking their windows and alerting them to the fire in progress.



## Community Calendar

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

**CLARK** — Community Access Unlimited will hold its Sixteenth Annual Awards Night Celebration at 6:30 p.m. For further information, call Gail F. Kross at (908) 354-3040 ext. 275.

**MONTCLAIR** — Spence-Chapin Services for Families and Children is sponsoring an information meeting about African-American Infant Adoption at 6 p.m. For further information, call (973) 275-1212.

**MAHWAH** — Renowned Writer John Edgar Wideman To Speak At Ramapo College, from 4-8 p.m., in the Sharp Theater at the Bonis Center for the Performing and Visual Arts.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 27 (THROUGH APRIL 29TH)

**MONTCLAIR** — The Institute for the Humanities at Montclair State University presents an international three-day conference entitled "Black Thought and Movements in World History," featuring Professor Motti Klotz, Assistant of Temple University, beginning at 5:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 655-7516.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 28

**TRENTON** — Annual Granville Academy Graduation Dinner beginning 6:45 p.m. For further information, call (609) 393-3223.

**NEWARK** — Public Partnership sponsors Career and Job Fair from 12-4 p.m. For further information, contact Robert S. Kaplan at (973) 622-7900, ext. 3106.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 29

**NEWARK** — Garden State Ballet School holds Summer Scholarship Tryouts. For further information, call (973) 623-1033.

**PATERSON** — Celebrity song mentors Ray, Goodman and Brown will perform a benefit concert at Masonic Temple at 10 p.m. For further information, call (973) 389-0111 or 804-0808.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

**ASBURY PARK** — Events/ShoreCats at Convention Hall. For further information, call (732) 775-2100.

### THURSDAY, MAY 4

**MAHWAH** — 100 Employers To Attend Job Fair At Ramapo College from 12-2:30 p.m. For further information, call Jeremy Winter at the Career Center at Ramapo College at (201) 644-7443.

### SATURDAY, MAY 6

**NEWARK** — Garden State Ballet School holds Summer Scholarship Tryouts. For further information, call (973) 623-1033.

**NEWARK** — Jersey Cares Invites Community To Jersey Cares Day: A Day Of Volunteering and Community Service 8:30 - 9 a.m. Volunteer service time is at 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. For further information, call (973) 644-4952.

**NEWARK** — Historic Home offers unique view of New Jersey's History, Liberty Hall museum opens at 11 a.m. For further information, contact Bill Schroh at (908) 527-0400.

### MONDAY, MAY 8

**MADISON** — St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center of Madison and North Branch announces its second annual statewide Pet Food Drive. For further information, contact Kelly G. Vanessa at (808) 718-7759 or Elizabeth McConkie at (973) 377-7094.

### THURSDAY, MAY 11

**TRENTON** — Kids In Concert at the War Memorial Theater at 7:30 p.m. For further information, contact Mary Winkler at (973) 624-1815 ext. 22.

### FRIDAY, MAY 12

**ASBURY PARK** — Weird Al. will be premiering at the Paramount Theatre. For further information, call (732) 775-2100.

### SATURDAY, MAY 13

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The Paramount Theater is hosting a Gospel Concert. For more information, call (732) 775-2100.

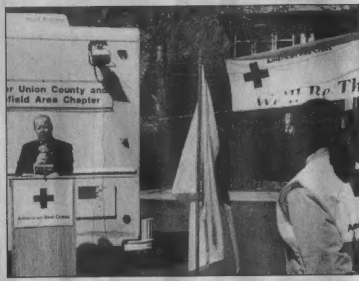
**PLAINFIELD** — New Jersey's hottest contested Seventh Congressional District has scheduled a candidates forum, at 2 p.m. For further information, call (908) 755-5846.

## Salute to Gordon Parks



The Reel Harlem Film Foundation presents its inaugural Gordon Parks award to the legendary man for whom it is named at the foundation's kick-off event at Aron Davis Hall recently. From left: Emcee Ossie Davis, Parks, Byron Lewis of UniWorld Group, Reginald Scott, the Director of the Reel Harlem Film Foundation, and Voza Rivers, member of the foundation Board of Directors are all smiles at the event.

## Bollwage aids Red Cross



Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage, left, attended the First Annual American Red Cross Open House held by the Greater Union County - Plainfield Area Chapter in Elizabeth. Bollwage lauded the dedication of the Red Cross volunteers and signed a proclamation declaring March as American Red Cross Awareness Month. Joining Bollwage were members of both the Red Cross Board of Directors and the local Red Cross Chapter in Elizabeth.

## DeSalvo reads at NJCU



Author Louise DeSalvo (right), memoirist and biographer, read excerpts from her books at New Jersey City University as part of a campus series on "The Memoir as the Genre of the 21st Century." DeSalvo discussed the use of family photographs and memorabilia in her work with, from left: Keria Watkins of Jersey City, a NJCU senior majoring in English and journalism; Brian Kelley of Bayonne, a NJCU junior majoring in English and secondary education; and Evigine Giunta, a NJCU assistant professor of English and coordinator of the series.

## E.O. Mayor Bowser celebrates



Mayor Robert L. Bowser along with his lovely wife Marilyn strikes a beautiful pose at the Mayor's annual Ball held at Mayfair Farms in West Orange.

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## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### DAY OF HONOR 2000 PROJECT: KENNEDY FILES RESOLUTION

Washington, D.C. (NNPA) — The Day of Honor 2000 Project saw an important honor in Congress regarding to call for May 25, 2000 as a national day to honor African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Native American World War II Veterans. Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy filed a resolution in the Senate calling for May 25, 2000 as a National Day of Honor. In filing the resolution Senator Kennedy asked his colleagues to support the measure for a joint resolution with the House of Representatives.

In remarks to his fellow senators Kennedy said, "These men and women who fought to protect our freedom were subject to unfair discrimination and have never received the recognition they deserve." The resolution has gained bipartisan support from conservatives and liberals, Republican and Democratic embrace it.

### U.S. CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS INTRODUCES BILL TO LEVEL PLAYING FIELD BETWEEN ELIAN AND HAITIAN GIRL

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Representative Alcee Hastings (D-La.) is introducing a bill to end to disparate treatment between immigrants from Cuba and other nations, today introduced legislation to confer permanent residency upon a motherless Haitian girl in Congressmen Hastings' District.

Six-year old Sophone Tely was last year a victim of a family feud in Florida when her mother died last year. Congressmen Hastings' bill is designed to provide Sophone with the same proposed opportunities as Elian Gonzalez. "I believe that Haitian and other countries are routinely deported, while the refugees from Cuba get special consideration," Hastings said. "I introduced this bill not only to help this young girl, but also to illustrate the patently disparate treatment of refugees from different countries. We must remember what John Adams said more than 200 years ago, 'We are a government of laws, not of men.' Congressmen Hastings said, 'I don't like the law, I want to change it. Let's not create loopholes depending on the situation. Either we stick to the law or change it.'"

### BUSINESSMAN MAY HAVE BLOCKED OSCAR FOR WASHINGTON

Washington, D.C. (NNPA)—According to sources, a Fort Lauderdale businessman, by the name of Cal Deal played a major role in ensuring Oscar nominated Denzel Washington of not receiving an Oscar for his performance in "The Hurricane." The film tells the powerful tale of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter's relentless fight for freedom after twice being convicted of a triple murder.

Deal's reason for not giving the Oscar to Washington, "I openly opposed an Oscar for Denzel Washington because of his dissident in the truth and his public endorsements of Carter."

### BLACK NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER FIRST TO HAVE SCHOOL NAMED IN HIS HONOR?

St. Louis, AZ (NNPA)—Clayton C. Campbell Sr. may be the first African American newspaper publisher to have a school named in his honor, the NNPA has learned.

Campbell who is accustomed to firsts, has been honored in the naming of a new state-of-the-art school for children (grades K through 8) located in South Phoenix, AZ.

Campbell was Arizona's first African American named to the state senate. In that capacity he was one of the state's pioneers in legislation on bilingual education, the Martin Luther King Holiday and to receive a commission on the status of women. Campbell, who became publisher of the Arizona Informant in 1971, has lived his entire life in the same black community where the school has been established. The area school board voted unanimously to have the school named for him.

"I don't believe in rocking the boat," said the veteran publisher who currently serves on the board of directors for the Carver High School. Also-African American, "I believe in turning the damned thing over to see who can swim."

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## Anniversary week starts with church service, memorial race

By Colleen Levin

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Pastor Billy Epperhart was here for some of the nation's darkest moments. Now he expects to see some of its brightest.

"I'm telling you this community will not just be known for tragedy but for recovery," Epperhart said Sunday at Trinity Christian Center, as Columbine High School began a week-long commemoration of the first anniversary of the nation's worst school shooting.

Epperhart officiated at the funerals of four Columbine victims after 12 students, a teacher and two teen gunmen died at the high school last April 20. Sunday, he and others reflected on holding onto hope.

Epperhart used the example of Jesus raising Lazarus after he had been dead four days and placed in a tomb.

"I believe that God can stand at the tomb of this community and say come forth," Epperhart said.

Littleton has endured other

tragedies since the Columbine shooting. Trinity is only a few hundred feet from the sandwich shop where two Columbine students were killed Feb. 14.

Epperhart acknowledged that the community is still raw, but he said people should accept what happened and forgive those involved so that they are not paralyzed by it.

In northeast Denver, more than 20 relatives and friends of Columbine victims attended service at Macedonia Baptist Church, where slain student Isiah Sholes sometimes attended service. The predominantly black church donated \$2,500 to rebuild the library where 12 people died in the shootings.

"Our communities are far apart, but we are the same people, both touched by tragedy and violence," said Sue Petrone, mother of slain student Daniel Robbough.

Officials expect as many as 100,000 people at the school and adjacent Clement Park on the first anniversary. The estimate is based on the crowds in Okla-

homa City on the first anniversary of that city's 1995 bombing.

A sheriff's command post has been set up in the park for paramedics and deputies. As many as 70 deputies on foot, horse and bicycle will patrol the area this week, with about 30 members of the sheriff's reserve unit on hand.

At Clement Park, the Columbine Memorial 5-K Run and Walk raised money for three \$5,000 scholarships last week.

It was the first anniversary event sponsored by the school, and 2,400 people participated.

Columbine juniors Lindsay Hamilton and Dan Arnold felt tired just standing near the starting line of the run. They came straight to the race from the prom and the parties that followed the shootings, and she enjoyed the run.

Lindsay was glad to have had the prom to look forward to before the first anniversary of the shootings, and she enjoyed the run.

"It's heartwarming. But it's also hard because it's starting the week."

## Pressure Builds To Abolish Africa's Debt

By Farah Khan

Cape Town, South Africa (NNPA) — As over a thousand protesters gather in the United States capital recently to aggressively protest the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank's lending practices in third world countries, African leaders gathered to strategize on abolishing paralyzing debts owed to Western countries in their entirety.

While American students struggled with police on the streets of Washington, D.C., causing that city to spend over \$5 million in crowd control—Africans half a world away took their own steps in freeing their countries of crippling western debts.

In Cape Town, to the gentle sounds of a marimba, the speaker of South Africa's parliament, Frene Ginwala, and former Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda, snipped open the paper mache chains holding captive a toy globe.

The two leaders performed the gesture symbolizing the freeing of nations enshained by foreign debt at a special Sunday service at Cape Town's St. George's cathedral.

They were among a host of senior politicians from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region supporting Jubilee 2000 and the scrapping of Mozambique's foreign debt.

The immediate, total and unconditional debt cancellation of Mozambique's foreign debt is key to the long-term reconstruction of the country," said ANC Member of Parliament Rob Davies in a motion before parliament.

Jubilee 2000 is a global alliance that fights for debt cancellation in the Third World. Presently, it's focusing on the Mozambican campaign after debtor nations in the Third World declined to cancel Mozambique's debts despite the devastating floods that wracked what is still the world's poorest nation.

At the church service, Kaunda added, "Mozambique paid its debt to the world when it fought apartheid. It's now time for the world to pay its debt to Mozambique."

Instead, Mozambique's debtors have only postponed the payments, which amount to \$1.4-million per week. The Mozambican government will have to resume payments next year.

Cancellation is "not only just, but essential if Mozambique is to overcome its history of wars and now the floods," said Mercia Andrews of the SA NGO Coalition.

With parliament's endorsement of its latest campaign, Jubilee 2000 South Africa is growing in influence.

Its patrons include the Anglican Archbishop, Njongonkulu Ndungane, who is as much an activist priest as his predecessor Desmond Tutu. Nelson Mandela's biographer Fatima Meer and the poet Dennis Brutus. Jubilee 2000 South Africa is supported by the 1.8-million strong Congress of SA Trade Unions as well as by the NGO coalition.

"There is an increasing convergence of political opinion on debt," says Neville Gabriel, the spokesperson of Jubilee 2000 in South Africa.

Whereas civil society and governments held very divergent views, there is a new focus on the debt web its spins for any development initiatives.

At this month's Africa-EU Summit in Cairo as well as at last week's G77 South-South summit in Havana, government leaders have spoken out on the need for enhanced debt relief and even in some cases, for debt cancellation.

South African President Thabo Mbeki told the Havana meeting that "greedy" countries of the north came to Mozambique to help it cope with the very serious flood disaster."

He added that "a week after they arrived to demonstrate this global solidarity, they refused to do the most obvious thing to express solidarity with the suffering Mozambican people: to cancel its debt."

## Remembering the Oklahoma Bombing



PJ Allen was one of the five children hospitalized with life-threatening injuries following the 1995 Bombing. He is pictured standing by the chair representing victim Lakisha Richardson Levy. Levy was in the First Floor Social Security Administration Office located in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Photo by Terry Farmer

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# EDITORIAL

## A Smart Breed

Secretary of State DeForest "Buster" Soaries recently addressed the 20th Annual Youth Conference held at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, which focused on combating teen pregnancy. During his address the Secretary said this generation of youth are much smarter than those who have come before them—and he could not have made a truer statement. Really, when you consider that the kids now-a-days are not the least bit afraid to voice their opinions. As elders we might not like how they pose what they say, but nevertheless, these kids today speak with a spinefire tongue upholding many truths. Some of today's youth, might seem to be a real defiant group. That's in part because they have had to basically raise themselves devoid of the love that nurtures all human beings. They have been labeled Generation X, besides other things. What previous generations have taken for granted—a loving home, food on the table, a roof overhead, clean clothes to wear, have not often been the case for youngsters today. Therefore, they have gravitated to gangs and have looked for love in all the wrong places. These are the young people you will always read about. But there's another group who are doing great things in their community and they're called the "Power Kids" from UMDNJ. They are an awesome bunch of smart kids doing remarkable things in educating their peers about HIV, AIDS and teen pregnancy. To get the full scoop on this dynamic group tune into City News next week.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:  
This letter is addressed to everyone in Newark who is outraged at the reduction in the number of hours residents were given to vote for the Newark Board of Education's Advisory Board on April 18.  
I have been patiently waiting for this issue to be brought to the attention of the public with an explanation from those who made such an irresponsible decision. To date, none has been forthcoming. Therefore, I feel compelled to "speak my piece."  
For the first time in five years, we have the opportunity and obligation to vote in an election that is more important than any other election. This election is about the fate and future of our children. We talk a "good game," about the children, the condition of our schools, the need for an enhanced curriculum and teacher proficiency, etc., yet we are allowing those in power to decide that children are not important enough to have equal time to exercise our right to vote as in other elections.  
To reduce the hours from what is normally allotted to 2 to 9 p.m. is an insult to us. They made the decision that Newark's children are not worth the investment to have had the polls open all day.  
Whatever needs to happen to right this disenfranchisement should be addressed and done so immediately. It has been said, if you don't think education is expensive, try ignorance.  
If we don't support our children, no one else will. Give us back our right to vote on our children, not yours.  
Mildred C. Crump  
Newark

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# OPINION

## Gas moves more than cars

By Bill Marable

Have you noticed anything different at the supermarket lately? If not, chances are you will on your next visit.

How about at your favorite department store? Are those Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc., sales as eye-catching as those of a year ago? Recently, a cavalry of this nation's independent tractor-trailer drivers used the Capitol as their personal truck stop. After conveying across the country, giving cry to select audiences along the way, the truckers used the Mall at Third and Constitution Avenue as a backdrop to deliver this message to U.S. lawmakers:

"High gas prices are driving us out of business!"

The price of gasoline at the pump has risen so dramatically over the past three months that, according to a *Washington Post* report, "the value of used trucks has decreased by 20 percent," a direct result of the amount of tractor-trailer drivers who have called it quits.

### Slowing of the Economy

For months now, America's top economist, Allen Greenspan, has been searching for a way to slow down the economy. His reason, in a nutshell, is that the economy that continues to spend and not save is an economy destined to fall.

His argument can be based upon a number of "indicators."

1. Few of the millions of people

responsible for keeping this economy moving are saving for a rainy day.

2. More new homes have been constructed over the last three years than in any other period in recent history.

3. Unemployment—nationally—is at an all-time low.

4. The stock market is as volatile as a bottle of nitro in an earthquake.

### Things to Watch

1. The gas pump. Prices have increased to as much as \$3 per gallon in some states.

2. The price of airline tickets will soon soar it's a fuel driven industry.

3. The price of produce at the

supermarket.

Farmers are going to have to pass the increased cost of production on to the consumer it's a fuel driven industry.

4. The price of dry goods at the department store.

As the cost of shipment begins to take effect, so will the cost on the rack it's a fuel driven industry.

5. Your utility bill.

Gas is gas and high prices are high prices it's a fuel driven industry.

### Call for Relief

Last time, it was the truckers mounting their second assault on the White House, demanding relief. The American consumer just might be next.

## Words, truth and the confederate flag

By Alice Bernstein

As an American and a person passionately against racism, I say it is wrong for Virginia's Gov. James Gilmore III to declare April as Confederate History Month, for the same reason that it is wrong for the Confederate battle flag to be flown over the South Carolina statehouse building or any other.

I am proud to agree with Rev. Gerald O. Glenn who leads the protest against a monument honoring the Confederacy and with the 50,000 people who demonstrated on Martin Luther King Day demanding the flag's removal from government buildings.

It is admirable that vestiges of it are in Georgia, Mississippi, Florida and other Southern states flags.

At the heart of these matters is what I am grateful I learned from Aesthetic Realism, the education founded by America's great poet and historian Eli Siegel, about the fight in everyone between respect or contempt for the world.

The deepest desire of every person, "Mr. Siegel explained, "is to like the world on an honest basis."

This desire is the source of art, truth, good sense. He also explained the cause of every injustice, from a "little lie," to the deadly forms of crime, racism, war—contempt, the admission to self through the lessening of something else."

It is urgent that everyone learn from Aesthetic Realism how to honestly like the world, and to criticize contempt, including in

ourselves. This study can end racism, and enables marriages to be kind, children to learn, violence to end.

In the international periodical *The Right of Aesthetic Realism to Be Known*, Ellen Reiss, Class Chairman of Aesthetic Realism, writes definitively on this subject and I want everyone to know it.

Reiss says: "The Confederacy arose from something completely hideous: the feeling in persons that other human beings should be their property."

The reason the Southern states seceded from the Union in 1861 was to be able to preserve slavery.

South Carolina might just as well display a bullwhip and auction.

## Wisdom from the ancestors

By Conrad W. Warrill

African people throughout the world are unfairly sold the yoke of white supremacy. This has created tremendous problems for us as a people.

There are solutions to these problems that we must be reminded of time and time again. These solutions have come from the wisdom of the ancestors and their deep thought.

Many of the solutions to the problems, and crisis of African people, have been set forth by our thinkers and activists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

From time to time movements have unfolded that have picked up on the ideas of these thinkers and activists.

When this has occurred serious challenges to breaking the yoke of white supremacy seemed within reach. However, due to internal and external manipulations of these movements they became short lived.

For example, one of the most successful of these movements was the Garvey Movement of the 1920's.

As African people face the twenty-first century, it is imperative that we collectively find solutions to the many problems

we face as a people. Many of these solutions are rooted in our historical efforts to dismantle white supremacy.

Let us briefly examine some of the ideas our leaders presented in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that should be the foundation for establishing and finding solutions at this crucial juncture in the history of African people.

Jean Jacques Desalines, one of the leaders of the Haitian Revolution in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century had much to say about the plight of African people everywhere.

"Never again shall a colonist,

or European, set his foot upon this territory with the title of master or proprietor," he said.

This resolution shall henceforward form the basis of our constitution."

Henry Highland Garnet, a mid-nineteenth-century Black Nationalist thinker and organizer also had something to say on the subject. He explained in the following statement that African people need "a grand center of Negro nationality, from which shall flow the streams of commercial, intellectual, and political power which shall make colorless people respected everywhere."

## Denzel was robbed

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The man probably least surprised when *Boyz n the City* director Denzel Washington did not grab the Oscar for his winning performance as boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter in the film "Hurricane," was Denzel Washington.

I'm sure he reads the three Hollywood trade papers, the *Daily Variety*, *Weekly Variety* and the *Hollywood Reporter*, and he knew from even the most cursory reading that his chance to become only the second African-American to win the top acting award in the 72-year history of the Academy Awards ceremony washed away months before the night of the awards.

That was when *DreamWorks*, a creation of film director Steven Spielberg and his pals, made a decision to pour close to a \$1 million (known) into ad, promotional and lobbying campaign to virtually buy an academy award for the film "American Beauty" and anyone involved in the making of the film.

*DreamWorks* executives remembered how their film "Saving Private Ryan," lost the best picture award in 1999 to *Miramax* Studios' "Shakespeare in Love." *DreamWorks* executives screamed that *Miramax* won the award because it dumped money into a last minute ad and promotional blitz for the film. *DreamWorks* was determined to rip the page from *Miramax*'s text.

Even before a single movie patron had seen "American Beauty," *DreamWorks* PR hirelings schmoozed and striped reviewers and critics to get them to rush over the film. They trotted out their top stars, Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening, and director Sam Mendes for appearances on major talk shows to hype the film. They sent their writer, Alan Ball, to celebrity dinners and tributes to hob-knob with academy voters. The strategy was to keep the film and its performers in the eye of as many of the more than 5,000 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science members that pick the Oscar winners as possible. The play worked. *DreamWorks*' lavish cash spree tipped the scales in favor of the film and Spacey for best actor.

But there were other heavy feet tipping

the scales against Washington. Many film critics nipped the film to death for its alleged inaccuracies and glorification of Carter's life. The critics' campaign to trash "Hurricane," almost certainly chased some Academy votes away from Washington. The same critics barely uttered a peep about the inaccuracies in the film, "Boyz n the City." A glaring omission was there was no mention that the reason that female Teena Brandon became transsexual Brandon Teena, on whose story the film is based, was because she was raped. But this didn't scare voters away from awarding the best actress award to Hillary Swank for portraying Teena.

Another heavy foot on the scales against Washington was that of a group that called itself The Families of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter's victims. Presumably the group is made up of family members of the three men Carter was charged with murdering, although the identities of these Carter haters remain unknown. Their mission was to raise as much hell as possible about the film "Hurricane." A spokesman for the group claimed they were able to lobby more than a thousand academy members to snub the film (i.e. Washington). Whether true or not, the fact that such a group existed, if nowhere other than on paper, probably convinced some academy members inclined to reward Washington with the award to change their minds. Washington could find few black critics who are my supporters to offset the backlash against "Hurricane," and a frontlash for "American Beauty," and honor his towering performance in the film. They are still mostly invisible.

able in the voting ranks of academy members. Less than 200 of the academy voters are black. This does much to explain why in the decades that Hollywood has ladled out its top awards to a grand total of six blacks, and that includes Washington for a best supporting actor award in 1989 and Sidney Poitier for best actor in his role as Homer Smith, the happy-go-lucky traveling laborer in *Lilies of the Field* in 1963, have won awards.

The machinations by the studios, critics, and academy members at this year's academy awards ceremony gave lie to Hollywood's claim that the academy awards go purely for merit and performance.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of the forthcoming, *The Disappearance of Black Leadership in the Middle Passage Press, Los Angeles, May 2000* To order, call (323) 298-0268. He is also director of the National African Center for Positive Action, email: [info@nacaforpa.com](mailto:info@nacaforpa.com)

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# BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

**NEWARK** - The NJ/RJ Minority Purchasing Council, will be holding its 3rd Information Exchange, at 9 a.m. For further information, contact Florence Nathan at (212) 496-9320.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

**NEW BRUNSWICK** - Public Conference To Explore Planning For Golden Years. Free public conference on "Aging and the Law." For further information, contact Florence Nathan at (212) 496-9320.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

**NEW YORK** - Festival Productions, Inc. presents New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. For further information, contact George Wein, CEO at (212) 496-9000.

MONDAY, MAY 1

**SEACALOUS** - The New Jersey Society of CPAs Education Foundation will host the 2000 Business & Technology Show. For further information, call (212) 288-0333.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

**NEW BRUNSWICK** - State Bar Foundation to Hold Legal Information Workshop. Attorneys interested in learning more about providing pro-bono services to clients with HIV or AIDS are invited to a free legal information workshop from 5:30 to 5 p.m. For further information, call Florence Nathan at (212) 937-7518 or 1-800-FREE LAW.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** - Family Law Attorneys to Discuss Divorce & Free Seminar, from 7 to 9 p.m. For further information, call Florence Nathan at (212) 937-7518.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

**NEW YORK** - Playboy Jazz at Beverly Hills Sundays in the City. For further information, contact George Wein, CEO at (212) 496-9000.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

**NEWARK** - GNBCD Training & Technical Assistance Program: Small Business Financials & Taxes. Classes start at 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the RFP Conference Room. For further information, contact Tendi Ndoro at (973) 242-4128.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

**NEWARK** - Newark International Airport Eighth Annual 2000 Aviation Career and Education Expo from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For additional information, contact Iola E. Davis at Port Authority at (973) 983-1625.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

**NEWARK** - GNBCD Training & Technical Assistance Program: Business Marketing & Sales from 8:30-11:30 a.m. For further information, contact Tendi Ndoro at (973) 242-4128.

THURSDAY, JULY 13

**NEWARK** - GNBCD Training & Technical Assistance Program: Develop a Business Plan. Class is from 8:30-11:30 a.m. For further information, contact Tendi Ndoro at (973) 242-4128.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

**NEWARK** - GNBCD Training & Technical Assistance Program: Develop a Business Plan, classes begin at 8:30-11:30 a.m. For further information, contact Tendi Ndoro at (973) 242-4128.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**NEWARK** - GNBCD Training & Technical Assistance Program: Purchasing & Inventory Business Development. Classes are from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

**NEWARK** - GNBCD Training & Technical Assistance Program: Basic Internet/Computer Skills. Classes are from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the RFP Conference Room. For further information, contact Tendi Ndoro at (973) 242-4128.

Today's new business: fax your business calendar to CITY NEWS (973) 642-5444

## BUSINESS

# Fannie Mae guidelines to combat predatory practices



stripping them of wealth and equity, we feel an obligation to clearly state our expectations and standards."

Steering. For loans delivered to Fannie Mae, the company expects that lenders will have determined the borrower's ability and willingness to repay the mortgage debt regardless of the underwriting method the lender uses. In addition, lenders should have practices and procedures to offer mortgage applicants the full range of products for which they qualify, and should specifically avoid the steering of borrowers to high-cost products that are designed for less creditworthy borrowers if the applicants can qualify for lower-cost products.

WASHINGTON, DC - To help protect consumers from abusive lending practices, the nation's largest source of financing for home mortgages has established new anti-predatory lending policies for the loans it purchases from lenders.

"We have an obligation to define the loans we will not buy, and practices we will not support that can have the effect of discouraging predatory lending," said Franklin D. Raines, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Fannie Mae.

"Many of these practices such as steering, equity stripping, excessive fees, and prepayment penalties, take away affordable mortgage opportunities from those borrowers who need it the most."

The vast majority of lenders provide the highest level of consumer service and treat their customers honestly and respectfully. Together, they and we have succeeded in raising the U.S. homeownership rate to the highest level ever," said Raines yesterday to a group of housing leaders.

"But in light of recent disputable evidence that some predators are taking unfair advantage of consumers and

Similarly, consumers who seek financing through a lender's higher-priced superior lending channel should be offered (or directed toward) the lender's standard mortgage product line if they are able to qualify for one of these standard products.

A lender also may choose to employ Fannie Mae's automated underwriting software, Desktop Underwriter, in which the borrower's credit record line is one of the key components for evaluating the eligibility of individual mortgages for delivery to Fannie Mae.

DU provides lender with a credit assessment recommendation, which can help the lender determine the best term for which the borrower qualifies.

This helps protect the borrower against steering. Using DU in conjunction with the additional policies stated below addresses some of the lending practices which Fannie Mae and the industry can combat predatory lending practices.

### Excessive Fees

Lenders should have their own guidelines and policies that address the fees that originate

and brokers can charge a borrower when a mortgage is originated and should apply those policies consistently.

For loans delivered to Fannie Mae, the points and fees charged to borrower should not exceed 5 percent, except where this would result in an unprofitable origination for example, because of the small size of the loan). In addition, we will not purchase a mortgage that is subject to the requirements in the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act of 1998 that apply to "high-cost" mortgages.

### Prepaid Single Premium Credit Life Insurance Policies

Fannie Mae will not purchase or securitize any mortgage for which a prepaid single-premium credit life insurance policy was sold to the borrower in connection with the origination of the mortgage loan, regardless of whether the premium is financed in the mortgage amount or paid from the borrower's funds.

This does not apply to credit life insurance policies that require separately identified premium payments on a monthly or annual basis or to prepaid hazard, flood, or mortgage insurance policies.

### Prepayment Penalties

Fannie Mae will only consider allowing prepayment penalties under the terms of a negotiated contract, and where the lender adheres to the following criteria: a mortgage that has a prepayment penalty should provide some benefit to the borrower (such as a rate or fee reduction for accepting the prepayment premium); the borrower also should be offered the choice of either mortgage product that does not require payment of such a premium; the terms of the mortgage provision that requires

a prepayment penalty should be adequately disclosed to the borrower, and, the prepayment penalty should not be charged when the mortgage debt is accelerated as the result of the borrower's default in making his or her mortgage payments.

### Full-life Credit Reporting

Fannie Mae believes that it is important for a borrower's entire payment history to be reported to the credit repositories since that gives a borrower who has a good payment record more opportunities to obtain new financing (and better mortgage terms) when the need arises.

Therefore, the company restated its policy that lenders must report on the status of any Fannie Mae loan that they are servicing each month to the credit repositories.

### Servicing Practices

Fannie Mae generally requires servicers to maintain escrow deposit accounts for the monthly deposit of funds to pay taxes, ground rents, mortgage insurance premiums, etc. In some cases, the company will allow servicers to waive the requirement on a case-by-case basis.

However, the company suggests that waivers should not be granted in the case of borrowers with blemished credit records to protect them from additional risk of default.

"Predatory lending violates three basic mortgage consumer rights: the right to access to suitable mortgage credit; the right to the lowest cost mortgage for which a consumer can qualify; and the right to know the true cost of a mortgage," said Raines. "We will work with community advocates and lenders to stamp out predatory lending practices, which prohibit a consumer's ability to access mortgage credit fairly."

## State Chamber, SBA conference to focus on technology, marketing

TRENTON - The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will host the 3rd Annual New Jersey Conference for Small Business on May 19 at the Brunswick Hilton in East Brunswick. The symposium for entrepreneurs, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. will feature workshops on key issues presentations by small business experts, networking opportunities and over 40

*This year, the majority of the conference will focus on technology and marketing topics.*

exhibits. This year, the majority of the conference will focus on technology and marketing topics.

The conference kicks off with keynote speaker Rick Cerone, former catcher for the New York Yankees and founder of the minor league Newark Bears. He will talk about the difficulties of being an entrepreneur and the struggles he faced starting a baseball team from scratch.

Ten workshops will be offered, covering such topics as e-commerce and the Internet, public relations and advertising, database marketing, hiring technology consultants, finding top-notch employees, securing loans, and programs offered by the SBA. Over 40 exhibitors will also be present showcasing the many products and services available to small business owners.

Attendees can also sign up for one-on-one business counseling, compliments of the New Jersey Small Business Development Center, to meet with a NJSBDC counselor or at the conference.

## SBA, NTHP encourage economic revitalization

WASHINGTON DC - A new alliance between the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) will encourage economic revitalization of local commercial districts in cities and towns across the country. SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez announced recently.

Alvarez signed the agreement in Richmond, Mo. during NTHP's National Town Meeting on Main Street, where she was a featured speaker.

"This partnership makes perfect sense," Alvarez said. "Our agendas overlap so much that it's time we work together to adjust our strategies, as well."

"This is the simple reality: the National Trust's Main Street program is the leading commercial district revitalization program in the country, and the SBA is the nation's leading financial backer of small businesses."

"Frankly, I think it's fair to say that you can't have one without the other," Alvarez said.

"Our programs ought to work together because working together will help small business owners and their commu-

nities achieve their goals."

The agreement commits SBA and NTHP to work together over the next six months in one major urban area - Boston - and one largely rural state - Indiana - to determine how best to combine the resources of the two organizations to boost economic growth in local commercial districts.

"We are going to find out which of our resources are the most useful, and we are going to figure out how those resources ought to be deployed," Alvarez said.

"Then we'll have a model that we can share with the rest of the SBA's 70 district offices and the rest of the National Trust's 1,500 Main Street Projects."

"This partnership will combine our resources to build the small businesses that create jobs, generate economic growth and give stability to our communities," Alvarez said.

By doing so, we will help preserve the rich assets - the architecture, the personal service and the sense of place - of our Main Streets and our downtowns all across America."

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## PRAYER CORNER



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Forgive yourself for past mistakes.  
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Discover your possibilities.  
Make a new friend.  
Accept responsibility for everything you do.  
Refuse responsibility for anyone else's actions.  
Dream one dream.  
Cherish what you have.  
Cherish who you are.  
Love your life.

## GOSPEL INSIDER

Gospel Insider would like to welcome the following newspapers into the Gospel Insider family: The Baltimore Times, The Carolina (Raleigh), Birmingham World, The Louisiana Weekly (New Orleans), The Michigan Chronicle (Detroit), The Philadelphia New Observer, and the City News, Newark.

Stellar Gospel Artist **Fred Hammond** will release the follow-up to his double platinum CD "Pages of Life" was released in March "Purpose by Design" the new project is an innovative mix of studio and live recordings.

Anointed harpist **Jeff Majors** has just released a CD entitled **Sacred 2000** featuring contemporary versions of classic Negro Spirituals. The legendary Albertina Walker lends her voice to the project and the song "Last Another Day" Sacred 2000 is in stores now.

**GOSPEL INSIDER** recommends "Casting the First Stone" by best selling author.

**Kimberly Lawson Roby**, Roby's novel explores a preacher's life struggle with both Church politics and emotional upheaval.

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Contact your local station for air times. If your local station does not air GOSPEL INSIDER or GOSPEL INSIDER 2000, call them and request that they air the show or e-mail us at [gospelinsider@drblacksmonstradio.com](mailto:gospelinsider@drblacksmonstradio.com)

We welcome your requests for collective community prayer for our prayer corner. Send all requests to City News Religion Section 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1 F Newark, NJ 07102 Fax your requests to (973) 642-5444

# Regaining sanity through our history

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"It would behoove African Americans to remember that history forgets first, those who forget themselves." Randall Robinson

"If we don't know our history, or if we make our history unconscious and therefore place it out of awareness, that unconscious history becomes a source of unconscious motivation, then why we behave the way we do becomes a puzzle. We're confused by our own behavior. If we want to know why we behave the way we do then we must know our history; the unconscious must be made conscious."

Dr. Amos Wilson

When we look at the conditions of our lives and our communities, we see effects that are the consequences of our behaviors and the behaviors of others. Often we are confounded as to how and why we are where we are. Too frequently we think things are the way they are because this is the way they should be. Or worse, we think we are where we are due to some innate flaw in us as a people rather than looking at our lives from the broader perspective of the history of American slavery, social engineering or understanding the forces that have impacted upon us for the last 376 years. We forget that we have hatred, dehumanization, racial caste and mendacity.

The obvious pathologies we see in ourselves and our commu-

nity and more importantly, those we fail to recog-

nize, are due primarily to a debilitating multi-generational legacy of slavery, socio-economic penance and racial caste. If we are to ever extricate ourselves from the death throes of the psychopathy of white supremacy, we must rediscover all our history; what we were before the coming of Caucasians (Arabs and Europeans) what has been done to us by them; what our potential is; and what our options are.

The goals of psychotherapy are to get the patient to discuss his or her anxieties, their innermost life experiences, desires and feelings in a nonjudgmental atmosphere, to encourage under- tive adjustment to their environment. By that reckoning the only way we as a people can

Photo of newly freed slaves courtesy of the Shomburg Center for Research in Black Culture - Harlem, NY

The good news is, we are not powerless or inferior beings. We have the ability to think and act any way we choose.

effectively interpret the causes of our anxieties and examine our life experiences with the goal of understanding our problems, the knowing our history.

For the most part, we are unconscious of our anxieties.

They perceive under the surface of our consciousness. We have pushed the painful memories of the atrocities/indignities done and still being done to us out of immediate awareness.

We blame ourselves rather than the real culprits. This is a form of group post traumatic stress disorder. We are disoriented from the Eurocentric culturally induced amnesia and programmed self-hatred. We don't know who we are so we resist getting in touch with our divine inner compass or calling upon our ancestral spirits for guidance.

We have so effectively internalized the pernicious anti-African psychopathy of the dominant society, we are unwilling to entertain the idea/possibility of

We believe the autogenic stress-related diseases we experience are hereditary, irre-

versible, or the price we pay for living in America.

Not so. This psychopathy was imposed upon us, taught and modeled to us by our enemies and their lackeys. Europeans used alcohol to entice African chiefs to wage war on other tribes and sell their own people into bondage.

Simultaneously, whites were using alcohol to disorient, destabilize and exterminate the Native Americans. This is their Modus Operandi. We have to understand how our languages, spiritual orientation, cultural traditions and ethnic lineages were obliterated; how we were dehumanized and treated as property.

Following slavery, we were subjected to a nefarious form of quasi-slavery and government sanctioned racial caste system. Every institution in this country was dedicated to promoting the idea Africans were innately inferior to whites.

Nationally, violence of unfathomable proportions backed or protected by the government was used to stifle dissent, insurrection, resistance or black progress. This is what put/keeps us in the subordinate position we are in today.

The good news is, we are not powerless or inferior beings. We have the ability to think and act any way we choose.

We can neutralize the self-destructive mendacity by loving ourselves, thinking, and acting in our best interests.

Our history at the hands of Caucasians is painful but for us to heal and fully recover we must and positive future begin with understanding our past.

## NAACP 86th annual Freedom Observance



The members of One Spirit, a gospel group from New Hope Baptist church.

NEWARK — The Rev. Milton Biggman will be the featured gospel artist at the 86th Annual Freedom Observance Gospel-Fest held at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 149 Springfield Avenue, Newark. Joining the festivities will be an inspirational lineup of talented individuals and groups.

As a soloist, Rev. Biggman has recorded and performed with some of the biggest names in gospel such as the late Rev. James Cleveland, Albertina Walker, Rev. Clay Evans, The New Jersey Mass Choir, The Revival Temple Mass Choir, The Mississippi Choir, Dorothy Norwood, Inez Andrews, and many others. He is a songwriter and has produced for Donnie McClurkin, LaShun Pace and Timothy Wright.

Rev. Biggman was the music consultant for the Disney Movie, "The Preachers Wife," starring Denzel Washington and Whitney Houston. He is the Pastor at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Newark.

The Brower Brothers, having traveled across the country, will

be in service to bring worship unto God with their rich harmony and southern spiritual praise. Rev. Clifford Brower, Religious Affairs Committee Chairperson, is one of the members of the ensemble.

The Metropolitan Baptist Church Youth and Mass Choir are the host choirs. Dr. Dexter Aligood, a premiere music director and recording artist, leads this dynamic group of vocalists. The choirs are growing under the leadership of Dr. Aligood and are guaranteed to lift the spirit of every soul committed to praise in the Lord Savior.

One Spirit, an exciting new group from New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, will be part of the Annual event. This group of talented young artists is rapidly developing a musical sound that provides ministry and praise in song.

Additional participants will include Sean Vaughn, Carpenters Tools and many, many more. Anyone interested in participating, can contact the Newark Branch office of the NAACP at (973) 624-6400.

## Give Thanks

Take time to give thanks for all God's blessings. Most importantly, find the blessings in your life and know that He is with you.



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# Newark Teacher

Continued from A1

Eight months of house arrest," Sykes said. "How, Mr. Farmer, do you justify this disparity in sentencing?"

Sykes and Hogan also said they do not believe it is a coincidence the embattled teachers' trials were moved from Essex County to Bergen County. The state claims that is where Lichtman operated, so it is only appropriate to hold the trials there, but somehow the NTA is not convinced.

Lichtman has been used as a prosecution witness, whereas the defendants nearly all reside in Essex," said Sykes. "How, Mr. Farmer, is this not an attempt to hide the prosecutions from the defendants' home communities?"

Hungerford, Sykes and the others are concerned that the only people being punished for the actions of Lichtman are African-American. Former Newark teachers because they are all suspended or subsequently fired to resign because of the allegations they defrauded several insurance companies, and now they have lost their livelihoods.

The panelists at the press conference said many of the other teachers have not been paid work with no way to support themselves or pay for the type of quality legal representation that could help them. They said they believe Governor Christine Whitman, former State Superintendent Beverly Hall, and the entire judicial system conspired against the teachers for political reasons in an attempt to balance the 1994-95 Newark School budget one year after it took over the district. Why else, they asked, weren't the other 20 teachers from districts like Toms River, Livingston, and Chatham charged as criminals?

The panelists are calling upon state Attorney General John Farmer to answer questions relating to the disposition of 59 cases. They want to know why, based solely on allegations at the time, were all 59 of the teachers from Newark suspended without the hearings they were guaranteed by law; why weren't the names of teachers in any of the other districts implicated in the Lichtman operation made public; why none of the other school districts did not suspend any of those other teachers; and why are individuals who only played peripheral roles in the fraud scheme being prosecuted when, in similar circumstances, there has not been the case?

The NTA, Hamm and their supporters are also accusing Farmer of publicly threatening another defendant with 10 years in prison over a few thousand dollars. They said he must answer these and other questions, and Hamm has written letters to Senator Robert Tortorelli for support.

In a letter dated February 21, 1990, Tortorelli wrote Hamm that he has written to Farmer asking for a review of the matter. He said Hamm's letters contain a number of troubling questions which I believe merit review and inquiry, and that when he receives a response from Farmer "of any development... I will keep you apprised."

Hamm said he appreciates the support, but something has to be done now.

Above all there is the issue of "excess double standard of justice," Hamm said. "This was a statewide operation in which Dr. Lichtman submitted \$3.5 million in false claims to the Prudential Insurance Corporation. He used the names of school employees from at least a dozen school districts. Only one imposed suspensions, however Newark, which suspended 59."

Hamm said it is definitely known that there were white people involved in the Lichtman case, but only African-Americans have been prosecuted. He said Lichtman used hundreds of names statewide, yet no white person other than Lichtman has ever borne any penalty.

He served eight months in a Baltimore house, little more than a community service penalty — by paying \$3.5 million in false claims, while Vivian Davis, who has gotten five years in jail, he said, "She has not even been allowed bail pending hearing. There is no justification for this." At press time, neither the Farmer, Whitman, Hall, or representatives from the Newark Teachers' Union, which all the suspended teachers belonged to — could be reached for comment.

# Dunbar at black minister conference

Continued from A1

said Reverend Caleb Oates, the president of the NJBMC. "We will consider them, but there are still some things we are concerned about. I think there is some reluctance on their part to get the process going, but I feel we can work it out."

Assemblyman William Payne, D-28, was less optimistic. He said the presentation by Dunbar and company was a "glossy going on in the state police."

"I don't believe that the leadership of the state police is committed to change," he said. "They totally ignored the recommendations that the Legislative Black and Latino Caucus had in their report last year. At that time we recommended that the promotions — 161, at that time be rescinded. That was ignored."

To top things off, Payne said the attorney general and State police recently promoted 304 troopers.

"They have no intention whatsoever of giving any regard to the minority who exist in the state and also in the legislature," he said. "I have very little confidence the attorney general or the colonel will bring about the changes necessary."

Payne was not alone in his sentiments regarding the troopers' reforms. "Of the New Jersey State Police's Black and Latino Troopers Coalition, was on hand at the BMC conference and read

a prepared statement regarding his organization's mission. Their presence was very relevant, especially in light of the fact the 2,800 member organization has launched a new recruiting campaign aimed at attracting more minorities, revamping the disciplinary system, installing video cameras in cruisers, and implementing a new computer system to track detailed information on every traffic stop made by troopers.

Guy Packwood, the chairman of the BALTC, also had a few things to say about recent remarks from Dunbar stating his willingness to meet with them.

"As yet we have not met with the colonel, but we look forward to it," he said. "The members of BALTC are committed to working with the leadership of the State Police, the elected leaders of the people of New Jersey and the public at large to restore the trust and confidence of the people of this state in the overall professionalism of the State Police and its commitment to constitutional principals of equal treatment."

Dunbar stuck by his story. He said the only reason he has not met with representatives from BALTC until now is he has been telling them he would meet with a select number of representatives chosen from their ranks only.

"As chief executive officer of the State Police I don't want to meet with entire organizations," he said.

Dunbar said making changes to the State Police force takes time. He said no one, not even the BMC, can expect everything to be resolved in a "short period of time." Regarding the recent promotions, he said those too were on track before he took office and it would not have been appropriate or wise to interrupt or derail that process.

Dunbar said the series of 88 reforms initiated by the department last year are moving ahead slowly but surely. However, he and Farmer agreed one of the reasons for that seemingly slow pace is the fact they are trying to do that once in place, the reforms cannot be undone by succeeding administrations.

"We are trying to effect fundamental change on the New Jersey State Police," Farmer said. "The process must be deliberate; the commitment unflagging."

Farmer and Dunbar said other reforms, including an overhaul of the promotional system, new testing for recruits, and re-training current troopers in proper traffic stop procedures are coming down the line. However fast they do come, it may not be fast enough for the BMC.

"We're going to be with you when you're wrong and when you're right," Jackson said. "When you're wrong to get you right, and when you're right to keep you right."

The BMC was the lead organization in calling for investiga-

tions into allegations of racial profiling against the troopers generally, and Hogan and Kenna specifically, after they fired 11 shots into a van carrying three minority men on the New Jersey Turnpike in April 1988. The troopers were indicted for attempted murder in September 1989.

The shootings uncovered the specter of racial profiling among the troopers and led to separate investigations by the Legislative Black and Latino Caucus and the Attorney General's Office. After denying the practice for another year, in 1989 the Attorney General's Office admitted some troopers had targeted minority drivers for stops and searches and that trooper brass had done little to prevent the practice.

They also led to the indictment of Hogan and Kenna on charges of official misconduct and falsifying records in April 1989. The indictments allege the troopers stopped more than 100 dozen black motorists from January 1988 to April 23, 1988 while reporting the race of the people as white on their daily patrol logs. Investigators believe the switch was made to mislead supervisors looking for patterns of racial bias.

Hogan and Kenna have pleaded not guilty to all the charges. At the time of their indictments, 10 other troopers were also under investigation, according to the attorney general's office.

# Operation stops Maryland bill

Continued from A1

American community for the entire state of Maryland," said Sen. Nathaniel McFadden. Rowlings, for his part, says he is using his power as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee to get needed state support for Baltimore and black institutions.

Sen. Clarence Mitchell, one of the state's senators from Baltimore who criticized

Rawlings during the debate, made the motion to kill the bill. He said the committee measure calling for a task force study is a better way to find out if black motorists are being unfairly targeted by police.

Responding to comments that the House bill is better because it would require police to keep detailed records of their traffic stops, Mitchell said he is sure police will cooperate with a task force created by the legisla-

*'A police agency that doesn't cooperate with the task force and comes... seeking money, "will have trouble" — Sen. Clarence Mitchell Baltimore, Md.*

ture. A police agency that doesn't cooperate with the task force and comes to the legislature seeking money, "will have trouble getting funded," he said.

Delaware's "rainmaker" from Baltimore, said he hopes when the bill comes back to the House on closing day tomorrow, it will be amended to reflect the original Rawlings bill.

You don't need another study," he said.

# Rev. Calvin Butts praises NJBMC Prime Challenge

Continued from A1

mansion and dropped it off on the city lawn. When people asked us why we did that, we told them it was appropriate to turn the body over to the next of kin."

Giuliani aside, Rev. Butts used the platform of the NJBMC banquet to talk about the clergy of New Jersey and how they are setting the standard for their brothers across the Hudson and the rest of the country. He said they are answering the question of why can't churches and preachers put aside their egos and get together for the common good.

"This banquet says it all," he said. "Your presence here speaks to the power of this organization and it deserves to be respected. I was listening to 1010 WINS on the way here across the bridge and heard a report about how the new director of the New Jersey State Police was reporting to the Black Ministers' Council of New Jersey. Once again, New Jersey is leading the way."

Rev. Butts said another area in which the NJBMC is leading the way is economic empowerment for blacks and other minorities. He said for some time now there have been critics and doubters concerned about whether or not black churches and ministers should be involved in economic development projects about the virtues of acquiring and holding onto wealth, but once again New Jersey and its now thriving faith-based community and economic development corporations are pointing the way.

No slouch in the area of CDCs himself, Rev. Butts' church runs a CDC worth millions of dollars. The funds it generates are used to promote housing construction and other works in black and minority communities as well as the larger city and Wall Street. "We're beyond the color line except when the green's concerned," he said. "We

have always desired a piece of the American Dream. The only way to ensure that is the ownership of capital and the means of production. In other words, 40 acres and a mule. If you work for 200 years and nobody pays you, you've got a lot of equity."

The banquet was a star-studded event from a political point of view. Woodbridge Mayor Jim

*"The only way to ensure that is the ownership of capital and the means of production. In other words, 40 acres and a mule. If you work for 200 years and nobody pays you, you've got a lot of equity" — Rev. Calvin Butts*

McGreedy was in attendance as were former Governor and current Senate candidate Jim Florio and his wife, a number of Orange City Council members, members of the Mercer County Freeholders, and Mayor Mims Hackett of Orange.

In addition to Rev. Butts, the featured speaker of the evening was Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-New Jersey, who was presented with the NJBMC's Public Service Award. Lautenberg will be retiring soon — which has prompted the heated race between Florio and former Goldman Sachs CEO Jon Corzine — but he took the opportunity afforded him to tell everyone in the audience know that he's not gone yet.

Lautenberg also had a few things to say about the job that will be required of his eventual successor. "My job is to make certain we pay attention to all segments of society," he said. "It has been a tremendous honor to give something back."

# Local Briefs

## PROJECT PRIDE'S ALL-STAR TEAM BASKETBALL TEAM HEADS TO WALT DISNEY WORLD

**NEWARK** — On April 22nd, the Project Pride Newark All-Star Team and the Newark Project Pride Newark Boys and Girls Club, headed to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, to participate in the 32nd Annual International Small Fry Tournament.

Both teams are co-sponsored by Project Pride, Inc., the Newark Public Schools, the North Ward Center, Inc., and the Newark Boys and Girls Club. Small Fry Basketball is a national charity basketball program open to children between the ages of 10-13 who are 5-feet-one-inch or smaller. After months of training, the players will be able to travel to Orlando, Fla., and at the Walt Disney World Center of Sports, a state-of-the-art facility that is also used for professional venues. "Our Small Fry program lays the foundation and helps develop fundamental skills for the game of basketball," said Essex County Freeholder Chairman Joseph Divincenzo. "This tournament marks a great accomplishment in the children's lives. Whether we compete or not, it is the opportunity to experience a different environment, meet new friends, and create memories that are priceless that will be our trophies."

Divincenzo, the founder of the Small Fry Chapter and volunteer Project Pride Coordinator, said that Project Pride has given 400 players like Rhonda Cousay the opportunity to travel and participate in this national tournament. Cousay continues to play at the college level on a basketball scholarship.

## WELFARE TO WORK IS ONGOING

The state recently pumped \$2 million into Essex County's welfare system in order to hire 62 additional workers for the nation's sixth-largest social service agency.

The proposed 2000 Essex County budget shows the state's commitment to welfare agency. The budget was recently amended to include this new funding, which will increase the number of welfare workers to 705.

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# ESSENCE

## Awards 2000

By Gloria Dulan-Wilson

This year ESSENCE MAGAZINE a/k/a Essence Communications, turns 30. The Essence Awards was created in 1987 to focus national attention on distinguished Black women and to serve as role models for younger counterparts, demonstrating the highest standards of excellence.

This year's Awards ceremonies honored eight outstanding humanitarians, male and female, from all walks of life. It would appear, also, that the Essence Awards have come full circle, leaving Madison Square Garden's Paramount Theatre and returning for the first time in ten years to RadioCity Music Hall, a long time goal held by Essence Publisher and CEO, Edward "Ed" Lewis and President, Clarence O. Smith.

There were a lot of firsts this year; Susan L. Taylor, Editor-in-Chief since 1981, is now Publication Director, a newly created position, which expands her role that will ensure that all divisions of the multimedia company reflect the substance and style of the signature publication. She will also serve as the corporate managerial liaison between all Essence Communications Inc. divisions to develop new businesses, and expand their global reach.

Among considerations are an African counterpart which will emanate from South Africa and other key African countries. Ms. Taylor is currently cochair of an organization with Danny Glover to raise money to build housing in the rural areas of South Africa as well as the Helene Fuld School of Nursing raising funds to build a state-of-the-art educational institution in Harlem.

### STARS CELEBRATE: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



The honorees included:

The Rev. W.C. Martin, minister of Bennett Chapel Baptist church in Shelbyville, TX, and his wife, Donna, who arranged for the adoption of more than 100 orphaned and foster children by members of their congregation. The presentation was made by Shemar Moore. The Martin's adopted family were in the audience to show respect and support.

Mayor Emma Gresham reclaimed and transformed Keyesville, GA, a tiny rural town of 400 people. She rallied Black people in her community to establish a town government which local officials tried unsuccessfully to challenge all the way to the Supreme Court. They fought for a basis standard of living, including indoor plumbing, sanitation pickup, a library, fire and police protection a health clinic and after-school programs. Though Loretta Devine did the introductory remarks, the surprise presenter to Mayor Gresham was none other than First Lady and Senatorial Candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, who received this first lady: "For working tirelessly to restore basic Democratic rights and badly needed services. And for reminding the nation that everybody is somebody, we are honored to present you with the Essence Award 2000."

Mayor Gresham's response: "To God be the glory. This award is a precious gift and a real challenge. What can I render to the Lord for all he has bestowed on me. Our motto is - Keyesville, a town where everybody is somebody." Mayor Gresham, who just celebrated her 75th birthday on April 11 and is a 13-year survivor of breast cancer, is poised for the next challenge, and does not allow age, illness, nor "authority" to prevent her from achieving her goals.

Perhaps the most inspiring of all the honorees were Doctors George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt and Simpson Davis of Newark, NJ, who made a pact to rise above the dangers and temptations of the street and the challenges of poverty to achieve their dreams of becoming doctors. Faith Evans, Robert Guillaume and Blair

Underwood did the honors. But the poignant story of three youth who saw their friends gunned down in the street, was an inspiration to adults and youth alike. Hunt stated: "If we can do that for each other what would happen if each and every young man or woman or adult for that matter, took a stand for each other and then stayed firm all the way to make sure that each succeeded? Where would Black people be today?"

Danny Glover, a champion of social causes, from helping troubled youth to opposing the death penalty. He has served as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program, which focuses an eradicating poverty, creating jobs, and advancing the rights of women in less-developed countries — Omar Epps, Susan Sarandon and Delroy Lindo made the presentation to Glover, who described the ravages of HIV/AIDS on South African families, and the need for potable water and affordable homes. He invited everyone in the audience to make themselves a committee of one to donate funds to turn thousands of lives around.

Michael Jordan, considered the greatest basketball player ever. In 1996, he gave \$1 million to his alma mater, the Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to start the Jordan Institute for Families, which will tackle such issues as day care, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence. He has also committed \$2 million to help construct a 41,000 square foot facility in Chicago for the James R. Jordan Boys and Girls Club and Family Life Center in honor of the memory of his father, Oprah Winfrey, Bill Cosby and six children from the Make A Wish Foundation, did the presentation. Jordan, who accepted the award stated: "I hate being last, there's so much pressure, especially after the likes of Cosby and Winfrey" encouraged everyone from all walks of life to become integrally involved in the uplifting of those around them.

So much for the serious side. Our Black men and women were dressed to impress Essence style! Never has there been such an array of fashion, manners, energies, enthusiasm in one place — from formal wear to African traditional dress. The love, support, and camaraderie was evident throughout the entire theatre. It Made you proud to be Black.

Oprah Winfrey and Bill Cosby served as co-hosts. But Cosby was "off the hook", cracking two jokes per minute. Oprah Winfrey, wearing a gorgeous red evening gown, kept tripping over the train, unwittingly played "straightman" to Cosby's unique comedic style. Cosby was in such rare form that he totally "discomplemented" Oprah, by cracking jokes about her mishap. She could hardly recover from one joke before he had launched another one. He kept the audience laughing so hard they were crying. His totally unrehearsed ad libbing so disconcerted Winfrey, she was unable to read the teleprompter. They had to restart three times before they could announce the next honoree.

Spotted at the awards were gossip columnist Flo Anthony, Gordon Parks, Camille Cosby, New Jersey Congressman Donald Payne, Vivica A. Fox and hubby Six-Nine, of NBA fame Bernard King and wife Shauna (Susan Taylor's daughter) Gwen Goldsby Grant, socialite Maxine McCree Montano, Darryl Walker, head coach of the Washington Wizards; Diahann Carroll, Surgeon General Davidatcher, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Dorothy I. Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women, Bobby Short, among others.

The event would be nothing without Patti LaBelle's number, "You are My Friend", which received a standing ovation. The Essence Awards will air on Fox 5 on May 25.





# CityLife

## African American Heritage Breakfast honors community leaders

NEWARK — The African American Heritage Parade organizers and supporters recently convened at Newark's premier dining room, The Newark Club located at One Newark Center in Newark.

This year, the committee was especially honored to present its highest honor to New Jersey Secretary of State DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., who exemplifies in his service most notably of God, statesmanship and community and because of this he was presented with the coveted Pyramid Award.

Danny Williams, president of the Newark chapter of the NAACP was also honored as the Grand Marshall for 2000. He was selected for his dedicated service to the Crispus Attucks Parade, the Black Heritage Day Parade and the African American Heritage Statewide Parade. Williams, who the committee deemed worthy of such an honor, has displayed sacrifice, courage and leadership in continuing the vital work of the NAACP.

Catherine "Kitty" Brooks was honored as the Deputy Grand Marshall for 2000 for her sacrifice, wisdom, and perseverance in motivating black people to reclaim the knowledge of lost

black heritage and to walk with pride in the world.

The event was co-hosted by Coors, New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission, Managed Healthcare Systems and PSE&G Consumer Education Program/New Jersey Energy Choices.

"The Seventh Annual Leadership Breakfast hosted some 300 leaders from around the state, community, business, religious and political leaders witnessed a spirit of unity we have longed for in our communities and that's long over due," said Donald Bernard, Sr., chairman of the African American Heritage Parade Committee.

The Heritage Parade and Festival 99 were the most successful to date. The event attracted literally hundreds of thousands to Newark on the Memorial Day weekend. Presently, this is the largest African American cultural celebration in the state. Last year the parade and Heritage Festival was a huge success. Over 280,000 parade and festival goers marveled as the parade got on its way down Broad Street in Newark.

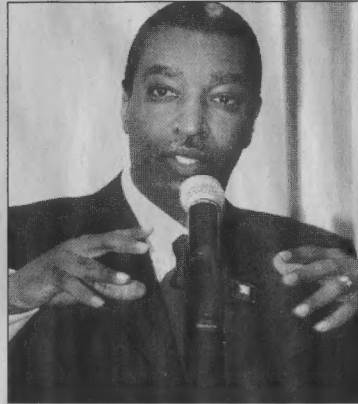
This year, the festival begins

*"The Seventh Annual Leadership Breakfast hosted some 300 leaders from around the state, community, business, religious and political leaders witnessed a spirit of unity we have longed for in our communities and that's long over due."*

— Donald Bernard, Sr., chairman of the African American Heritage Parade Committee

on Friday May 26-29 at Weequahic Park in Newark's Southward. The 22nd Annual Statewide Parade will feature a variety of new attractions. The newest feature this year is a continued display of our past leaders. Several ten foot round balloons will taxi down Broad Street hailing the faces of Willie Mays, Joe Louis, Marcus Garvey, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Ida B. Wells, Fannie Lou Hamer, Lorraine Hansbury, Queen Neferiti, Billie Holiday and others. The theme of this year's parade is "Moving Forward... Honoring Our Past." This is significant to the long history of the parade that dates back to 1966; the year that the very first Crispus Attucks Parade took place.

"The driving force behind the African American Heritage Parade Committee's work is God Almighty. Effective leadership is grounded in humility, said Bernard. In recognizing our limitations, effective leaders is based in the spirit of service; it is not driven by arrogance or conformity and remains principled in nature. Effective leaders do not dictate but lead by example inviting respect."



New Jersey Secretary of State DeForest B. Soaries Jr. addresses community leaders from around the state at the Seventh Annual Leadership Breakfast.  
Photo by William Prazier

### More scenes from the Seventh Annual Leadership Breakfast...



Guests for the Seventh Annual Leadership Breakfast pose at the event.  
Photo by Herb Glenn



WISOMM Executive Director Fredrica Bey and Gwen Goldsby Grant greet each other.  
Photo by Herb Glenn



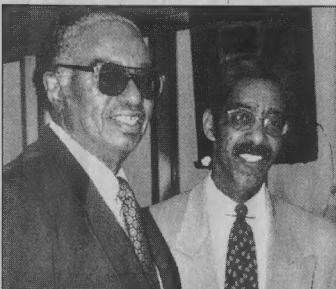
From left: Grand Marshall Danny Williams, Soaries, Thompson, and African American Heritage Parade Chairman Donald Bernard Sr.  
Photo by Herb Glenn



Marcus Garvey will be one of many historical figures to be featured on large balloons along the parade route.



Billie Holiday will be one of many historical figures to be featured on large balloons along the parade route.



African American Heritage Parade founder John Thompson (left) and Senator Ron Rice  
Photo by William Prazier



Booker T. Washington will be one of many historical figures to be featured on large balloons along the parade route.



Soaries takes a moment to chat with Deputy Grand Marshal Catherine "Kitty" Brooks.  
Photo by Herb Glenn



# Heartbeat Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**  
**IRVINGTON** — Irvington General Hospital hosts a stress reduction and skin care seminar at 10 a.m. For further information, call (973) 926-6771

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27**  
**NEWARK** — Irvington General Hospital hosts a stress reduction and relaxation exercise class at 10 a.m. For further information, call (973) 926-6771

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28**  
**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a stroke club support group at 12:30 p.m. For further information, call (732) 418-8110

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30**  
**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The Cancer Institute of New Jersey presents a state-wide bowling benefit at 10 a.m. For further information, call (856) 642-8225

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30**  
**PINE BROOK** — The March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2000 benefit will be held. For further information, call (973) 882-0700

**MONDAY, MAY 1**  
**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a gastric bypass support group at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-8600 ext. 5378

**THURSDAY, MAY 4**  
**BELLE MEADE** — The Cancer Clinic hosts a bipolar disorder seminar at 12 p.m. For further information, call (908) 208-1461

**FRIDAY, MAY 5**  
**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital sponsors a breastfeeding support group at 4 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-8600, ext. 8820

**TUESDAY, MAY 9**  
**PARSIPPANY** — The Alzheimer's Association of Northern New Jersey will host a golf raffle drawing at 7 p.m. For further information, call (973) 216-6676

**SATURDAY, MAY 13**  
**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Robert Wood Johnson Hospital hosts the 11th Annual Arthritis Patient/Family Conference, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call (732) 418-8110

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17**  
**NEWARK** — The Newark Beth Israel Center for Geriatric Health Care hosts a support group for caregivers 4:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 926-6771

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# Prostate cancer rates declining: African American men more likely to die of disease

**TRENTON** — After rising sharply in the late 1980s and early 1990s, New Jersey's overall prostate cancer incidence rate peaked in 1992 and has declined slightly since then.

However, African-American men are much more likely than white men to get prostate cancer and are more than twice as likely to die of the disease, according to Health and Senior Services.

**PLAINFIELD** — The Harmonic Scalpel was recently made available as an alternative surgical option to the patients who make up the \$ 3.7 million ear, nose and throat procedures performed annually, with 697,000 of those being tonsillectomies.

Harold Arlen, M.D., an ENT surgeon at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, has been utilizing this new technology and has already performed more than 70 procedures.

In the past, one of two methods was used to perform tonsillectomy surgery: electrocautery or laser surgery. Both methods use either light or intense electrical energy that operate at very high temperatures to make an incision through human tissue which often left patients with charred or burnt tissue and a lengthy recovery time.

All that has changed as the Food and Drug Administration cleared the Harmonic Scalpel for tonsillectomies last year. This is

a new application for ultrasonic energy. The Harmonic Scalpel uses ultrasonic energy to make surgical incisions. Initially developed in 1990 the Harmonic Scalpel was used for obstetrics and gynecological procedures. The expanded use of the Harmonic Scalpel now includes tonsillectomies as well as other ENT procedures. Dr. Arlen has been utilizing the Harmonic Scalpel during the past year to perform tonsillectomies as well as procedures for snoring and sleep with great results.

This ultrasonic energy uses sound waves that turn electrical energy into mechanical motion, and at the same time coagulates (the process of clot formation) small blood vessels with minimal tissue damage.

With only a few Harmonic Scapels in use around the country, Dr. Arlen is using his expertise to teach fellow ENT surgeons about this new application.

"The Harmonic Scalpel is a

Commissioner Christine Grant. Those are among the findings of the state's first report on prostate cancer, entitled "Prostate Cancer in New Jersey 1979 - 1996," which is based on New Jersey State Cancer Registry data.

The report examines trends in prostate cancer incidence and mortality, including the differing rates for white and African-American men.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men except for skin cancer, and is the second leading cause of cancer death after lung cancer.

"Over the past decade, more men have been taking advantage of screening methods that can identify this cancer early, when treatment outcomes are more favorable," said Grant. "But we must reach even more men with this important message."

Grant said they also must focus especially on African-American men, whose prostate cancer rates are "unacceptably high."

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services now offers prostate cancer outreach, education and screening in 15 counties.

Men from Atlantic counties will be added next month, and the Salem County program will be operating by July 1.

The program serves uninsured men over age 50 and specifically targets African-American men over age 40. Men receive counseling about prostate cancer and the issues surrounding testing and treatment before they are tested.

As part of this program, the department also is developing educational materials that will be distributed to barber shops, African-American churches, fraternities and other groups that can reach men at high risk.

According to the report, prostate cancer incidence rates for black men were more than 50 percent higher than for white men during the period 1979 - 1996 (162.1 vs 104.5).

A similar racial gap was seen in preliminary 1997 data. African-American men also had a lower percentage of their cancers diagnosed at the early stages than did white men for the period 1984 - 1996, when the data on stage of diagnosis were

most complete.

Black men's prostate cancer mortality rates were more than double the white rate both in 1996 (54.2 vs. 23) and during the period 1979-1996 (51.3 for black men and 23.5 for white men), the report notes.

The cause of prostate cancer is not known, but a family history of the disease places a man at higher risk. Other potential risk factors include high fat consumption in the diet, smoking and alcohol consumption.

The higher death rates among African-Americans may be related to their higher incidence rates and the fact that their cancers are more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage.

Almost all men eventually develop microscopic cancerous changes in the cells of the prostate. But only 10 percent of them go on to develop symptomatic prostate cancer.

Many prostate cancers are slow-growing and may not progress to life-threatening illness.

There is not yet a national consensus on screening guidelines for prostate cancer.

The Department of Health and Senior Services recommends that all men over age 50 be screened annually, as should men over age 40 who are black or at high risk because of their family history.

Screening should include the digital rectal exam and may include the PSA test, which is a blood test.

Before testing, men should be informed of all issues related to testing and treatment.

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Carl Thomas Emotional  
(Bad Boy/Arista)

In the times of over-sampled beats, weak balladeers, and catchy, pop-inspired bubble gum songs that seemed to be produced for MTV'sTRL line, Chicago native Carl Thomas manages to escape the trends that his label is usually known for.

Thomas' velvet voices draws appreciation as he belts out romantic selections of love, admiration, trial, separation, pain and ecstasy. On "Lady Lay Your Body," Thomas leads his lady through a rose-petal candle-lit evening over a slow, soothing track, and "Hey Now," which accompanies Thomas' voice with a piano-tinkled track with violins also evoking that loving mood.

Thomas also ventures into the more upbeat tempo mood with "I Wish," his tale of falling in love with a married woman, and drops a sharp spoken word session in the interlude, "Trouble Won't Last."

However, what the album lacks is variety. It seems like most of the songs have slow tracks with violins or the light hip-hop enhanced beats that are not needed and contains interludes that do nothing to enhance the listening experience, like the whack "Cadillac Rap."

Still, Thomas does establish himself by himself, crystallizing a secure spot among the Bad Boy family as a star soloist. His voice manages to surpass that ever growing pool of male vocalists that have saturated the industry, and the album does provide enough selections to



Various Artists Platinum R&B Party (Legacy/Sony)

This LP brings together some of R&B's most popular tunes and artists, guaranteeing listeners a pleasurable experience.

Highlighting this album are the tunes from the divas from the 1970s, like the Emotions' "Best of My Love," Labelle's "Lady Marmalade," and Cheryl Lynn's "Got To Be Real."

Those who miss the traditional R&B band will find delight in Sly & The Family Stone as they sing "Dance To The Music," "Celebration," by Kool & The Gang, "That Lady (Part 1 and 2)," and "Boogie Wonderland," by Earth, Wind & Fire.

The album briefly touches on some of the male crooners from the late 70s and early 80s with Marvin Gaye's "Sexual Healing," and "Can't Get Enough Of Your Love, Babe," by Barry White.

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## Big Brotha Soul



Big Brotha Soul

By Rob Williams  
Staff Writer

Many talk about the Tupac Shakur that the public came to know. The outspoken rapper whose lyrics inspired and angered many of his peers, politicians, and society.

But what about the early Tupac? From his days with the Digital Underground, known for their songs "The Humpty Dance," and "Do Watacha Ya

Like?"

Chopmaster J, one of the front men from Digital Underground, recently cracked open that chapter of Shakur's life in his new book, "State," a very dynamic account of Shakur's early days in the industry.

Chopmaster J talks about how Shakur joined the group, some of the antics Shakur pulled while they toured with Public Enemy, and Shakur's transition from a young man eager to shine

to a person who could not be contained.

"It was important that his fans have some insight of what happened (during those days) with Digital Underground," from a first-hand account," said Chopmaster J, who wrote the book after seeing people on television talking about that period from second-hand accounts.

In the book Chopmaster gets into detail about how Shakur first joined the group, and how

Shakur almost left music to become the leader of the New Black Panther Party. To keep him around, Digital Underground hired him as a roadie and a dancer to tour with the group as the opening act for Public Enemy.

Some of the stories shared include Shakur's countless interludes with groupies, a few incidents where Shakur was ready to fight the DJ for making an error during the show, and embarrassing moments during the tour.

One such moment happened after a show where the band members were comparing their skills and penis size, and pulled down their pants. Coincidentally, one of the members of the Fruit of Islam walked in the door to get an autograph then quickly walked out to their embarrassment.

The book also offers some reflections on the Shakur we do not often hear about the personal Shakur. One night at a tour spot in Indiana, "Trouble T



Troy, a member of Heavy and The Boyz, fell nearly five or six stories in a freak accident at the local arena during a show. He died two days later of the injuries.

"He [Shakur] was a very emotional and passionate brother. You saw that he was truly affected (by the death). It seemed that

he was caught off guard and not able to manipulate the situation," Chopmaster said of the vulnerable moment he witnessed.

The book also shows an interesting contrast from the Shakur when they first met him, to the near end of his association with the group. In the beginning, Chopmaster J describes him as a little brother who was obnoxious, but infectious. By the end of the book, he wrote that he and Shakur were not on the same frequency anymore, which inspired him to call the book "State."

"We just became disconnected," said Chopmaster J of the relationship between him and Shakur. "He came in as my roadie, and he became this move star. He was so much bigger and larger than we were. We just became disconnected and he moved on to bigger and better things."

Shakur became so volatile toward the end of his time with the group, Chopmaster J writes, "It got to be a situation where this nutha\*\*\*a could not be contained in any situation. He had to shine."

"It was his nature, his style," said Chopmaster J of Shakur's desire to shine. "It was obvious that he was truly on a path."

Soon, Shakur found his place to shine at Deathrow Records. Chopmaster J last had contact with Shakur in 1994 at DU member Shock-G's wedding. Two years later, Chopmaster J got word of Shakur's death.

"I was really triggered. I felt the loss and looked right up to the sky, and it was a really trippy feeling," said Chopmaster J.

As to the buzz about Shakur being alive, Chopmaster J, who now goes by the name Big Brotha Soul and lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, said he would not be surprised if it was true.

"I don't know much about that. I hear other different stories and conspiracies. He did diss NOI, and was involved in an Atlanta cop shooting. He was a smart guy. I won't be surprised," Chopmaster J said.

## MUSIC NOTES

### Puffy vents anger at New York Post

Sean "Puffy" Combs recently talked about about a New York Post article in "The New York Post" on April 15, alleging that he was being investigated by a grand jury for witness tampering and if he committed perjury to cover up his actions in the club shooting at a New York City club last December, according to a report by Vibe Online.

"I am outraged by the New York Post's story. It is completely false. In fact, I told the absolute truth when I testified before the grand jury, and I will continue to do so until I am fully exonerated. Combs is due back in court on May 16.



Lucy Pearl

### Article reveals Carey's diva demands

Q Magazine recently published an article revealing some of Mariah Carey's diva-esque request, as reported to the magazine by an record company employee.

According to the source, Carey requests that pink toilet paper be in her room when she checks into hotels. The article also claims that she has an affinity for drinking out of crystal glasses, and during a trip to England for MTV, requested that the staff greet her with cheers and that she have a litter of puppies and kittens around for her, according to the report.



Sean "Puffy" Combs

### Raphael Saadiq explains Lucy Pearl's name

Raphael Saadiq, one third of the new group Lucy Pearl, recently talked about the group's name and the musical diversity of the group.

"I just wanted to say something different. I don't know, we was just chillin' one night, I was like 'Lucy, Lucy, Lucy, oh Lucy Pearl.' I'm used to dealing with names. I came up with the Tony's and all the titles from the Tony's albums. I always try to come with something that's gonna be different for our listeners, and kinda like old and new. That's what we came up with, and we stuck with that."



Mariah Carey

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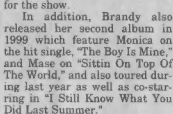
## Brandy celebrates 'Moesha' syndication contract

**SUNDAY, MAY 14**  
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"For Big Ticket, Moesha was our first network series. But it's equally exciting to see her go

"Moesha" is about a black

show, including Usher and the "The Parkers" Countess Vaughn. But in its success, the show has had its trying moments as



File photo

Sponsored by the Greater New York Toyota Dealers Association and Comedy Central, the 10 day festival is unprecedented in scope, with an exciting and dizzying array of established and aspiring comics and a decidedly New York bent.

As in the past, several events are free and open to the public, including the "Comedy in Bryant Park" series, readings at Barnes & Noble and the "Toyota Comedy Film Festival" at The Screening Room.

The Toyota Comedy Festival is produced by founders Alan King, John Schreiber and George Wein.

**Montel Williams** *File photo*

Any poet may enter this free contest simply by sending one poem, 20 lines or less, any subject (the poem does not have to be about MS) any style to: Montel Poetry Contest, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117 or by entering online at [www.poetry.com/montel](http://www.poetry.com/montel). New poets are encouraged to enter. All entrants will receive a response and autographed picture as personal thanks from Williams.

## Performances coming near you...

A popular event since it was started in 1990, the Genesis Festival features staged readings of new works that focus on African and African-American experi-

includes such hits as "T'Ain't Nobody's Business if I Do," "Honey Suckle Rose," "Keepin' Outta Mischief Now," "I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling,"

The theatre is a not-for-profit professional theatre, in residence on the campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck. The company offers performances at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays; 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets range from \$20 to \$30 depending on the performance day. For more information, call (201) 692-7744.

CityVerse features the works of aspiring poets and writers. If you have some work or know someone who does, send entries (under 200 words) with your full name, pen name, favorite writer and book, and literary goals to: CityVerse, 114 Mulberry Street, Suite 1E Newark, NJ 07102.



I could not tell the artists  
How to paint the hues  
I could not tell the artist  
What colors paint to choose  
or how his brush should use  
He is the master of his art  
For knowledge is of things  
he feels  
As only he can see  
And if his strokes looks like  
this or that  
I wouldn't dare to ask  
He is the master of his art  
He paints the earth, the  
skies, the sea  
He painted life on canvas too

# THE ARTIST

By: Charlee A. McKoy

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## Step into my parlor...



Photos by Noah Murray and Gilda Rogers

By Gilda Rogers  
Staff Writer

**H**ere I am chillin' in my parlor and let me tell you, I love the ambiance of this room. Whatever happened to parlors?

They're a throwback to the Victorian era, when furnishings were characterized by ornate design and splendid beauty. When I set out to decorate this room, I was thinking different – not your traditional couch, chair and matching love seat. I don't mean to offend anyone, but this type of decor can be down right boring and lacks personality. However it is a safe way to decorate and even in these rooms you should find ways to inject your very own personality with unique collectibles.

Like your style of dress, your home should also capture the essence of you – collect items that speak to you, they may not say much to someone else but like this burgundy brocade chaise lounge, which I fashioned this room around, it represents to me a time when life was easy – like Sunday morning.

The first thing you want to do is find that special piece and build from there. In my case, I started with three special pieces.

paper mache bust of Moses holding the sacred tablets, which was a gift. It is painted in the same



burgundy and lavender hues, which compliment the wall hanging, chaise lounge and lavender walls.

### Used Furniture Stores

The room did not come together overnight, so time is very important in creating that special signature room. And because I was operating off a very small budget being selective was a time consuming thing. I spent a lot of time in used furniture stores. These places are golden when it comes to decorating. The only purchase that I made at an exorbitant price was the lounge, which cost \$400. Everything else in this room was either cheap, cheap, cheap or cost nothing. The sea



"Angel Wings" by Lavern Ross a beautiful work of art, which cost me absolutely nothing (I'll explain that later), then sitting atop that ladder back there in the corner is a

infuses every color in the room was purchased at The Red Bank Used Furniture Store. With its claw feet, this piece was absolutely the best find, since it looked like it was spanking brand new and \$100. The lamps, you've got it, were found at a used furniture store in Plainfield and cost a whopping \$20 for the pair.

### Color

Don't be afraid of color it can make a room come alive. This room, which is painted in a pale lavender and trimmed in a delicious cantaloupe melon also served as the color that changed a basic utility ladder into a decorative item to hold my little chatchaks and knickknacks. I purchased gold plated wall socket covers (these little things make a big difference) which picked up on the gilded frame of all the wall hangings. The drapes which are the cheapest you can buy – sheer – are a focal point in the room, which cost \$4.99 a panel at Value City. They're in array of shades – which represent every color in the room

### Fabric

Old sheer curtains (in melon) that once dressed my kitchen windows now serve as end table-top dressing. The tables which are your basic \$4.99 round three-legged tables purchased from K-Mart take on a totally different look. I purchased off-white fabric from Jo-Ann's Fabrics and threw it over the tables and let it fall to the floor to form what's called a "puddle" look.

### Flooring

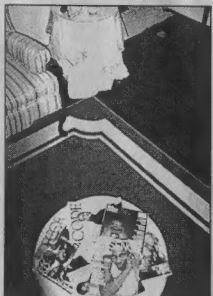
A very important element in decorating. In this room, I removed the outdated carpeting, which revealed a hard wood floor that needed a lot of work to get it into shape. I stripped the floor myself, remember I'm operating off a small budget, and then stained it a warm "Bombay Mahogany" (a burgundy hue). Atop the floor I purchased a melon 6x9 area rug at Value City for \$39. To create a separate room within the room,

I divided part of the floor near the front window and covered the floor in carpet squares, which also picked up every color in the room, for \$1 a piece at a local carpet store. This created such a special look that it usually turns into a conversation piece. The room is filled with colorful candles and unique frames.

Overall, I spent less than \$800 to decorate this room. This is a bargain when you consider a sofa alone can cost this much or more. But what makes this room so special is that I see it as a creative work of art. Now this is not to say that everyone will like it, but the point I'm making is that it suits me, well. And most people who visit my home usually fall in love with it too – it's just that kind of room!

Note: Angel Wings by Lavern Ross, was a picture I received for free for hosting a Black Art show in my home. I saw the picture at a show I had attended and could not afford it, so I hosted a show primarily to receive a discount. The show was a tremendous success and not only did I receive this free but another piece also.

It's amazing how creative you can become when you have limited funds, wouldn't you agree.



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## Ponder

By Greg Moore

## Choking under pressure

If Latrell Sprewell played for embattled Indiana head coach Bobby Knight, which one would be the first to choke the other? My guess is Bobby Knight, because he knows he could get away with it.

The media frenzy which ensued in the wake of the Latrell Sprewell choking incident was quite frankly, ridiculous. Although Sprewell definitely deserved some sort of punishment, his suspension and loss of millions of dollars of income was clearly excessive. Despite my protests at the time, my view of the choking incident was not one embraced by a majority of the public. Polls indicated that most people supported Spree's punishment based on the rationale that a player should never, never, ever permit a coach.

Well, that video tape evidence has surfaced showing Bobby Knight coaching former players to "choke" during the game, the public outcry in response is surprisingly muted. Which begs the question: What's the deal? Is it OK to coach to choke a player? In my own coach Knight's assault on his player was a more egregious example of the same tactic. First, parents who send their kids to college expect a school to serve as surrogate parents. They expect a right to be heard and universities to protect and safeguard the interests of their students. If a coach abuses that trust, as Coach Knight did at Indiana University, continues to protect an employee who has for years exhibited signs of mental illness, and who has so unreasonably exposed its students to risk of harm. Secondly, college coaches have a duty to protect the health of student-athletes under their tutelage into adulthood. However, this is performed through a system of denial, of a lack of character, and shape and mold responsible adults. As hard as I try, I cannot for the life of me see how Coach Knight can be learned from waving a toilet paper in the faces of athletes (which Knight is doing) and how I can learn from how hard I try, I cannot figure out what lesson can be drawn from him being a human player (which he is not).

With the exception of situations involving self defense, the act of choking anyone can never be justified. But when two guilty parties like Spewell and Knight receive such disparate treatment for engaging in essentially the same misdeed, it raises serious concerns related to perceptions, equity and double standards. Take my word for it, Bob Knight will not be fired for engaging in an act that would cost every other employee at Indiana University their jobs. My guess is that so long as Knight wins games and makes the school money, kids like Noel Reed are regarded by IU as a necessary cost of doing business.

# City Sports

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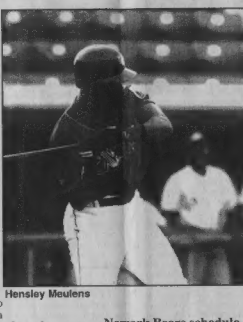
## Newark Bears Play Ball!

**NEWARK** — The Newark Bears will kick-off its third season on May 2, at Riverfront Stadium at 6:35 p.m. The Bears' history entrenched in the Newark baseball tradition dates back to 1931, when the team was purchased by then New York Yankee owner Jacob Ruppert. The Bears served as a farm club for the Yankees during the 1930's and '40's.

Fast forward to the year 2000—the Newark Bears of today are owned by former Major League and Newark native Rick Cerone. In the '99 season the Bears finished strong at the gate selling out their last three home games. The Bears had the third largest average attendance in the six-team Atlantic League. This year the Atlantic League became the first independent baseball league to draw over 1 million fans in one season. I

2000, the league is expected to draw over 2 million fans with an expansion from six to eight teams. This supports the fact that baseball fever is alive in the "Renaissance City." Rip 'N Ruppert will be at the stadium to

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the throng of people expect-  
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Photos courtesy of Newark Bears

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The Brick City Buccaneers is a minor league professional football team based in Newark. The team is part of the Garden State Football League and will play teams from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The team's schedule begins June 17, 2000. The team held tryouts for prospective players on Sunday April 16 at the Paul Robeson Stadium. For more information on the team and to contact Coach Norrmen Mann (973) 566-1753.

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continued from B8 I

Instead, Grant worked at becoming a well conditioned athlete. He possesses the stamina, the will of a champion, and knowledge of the game that's sure to benefit his players. The players that make up the Shore-Cats were not hounded by NBA teams and that's probably because they were perceived not to be good enough. To those players, Grant represents making it to the top - the NBA. He beat the odds.

"I've been where they want to go," said Grant. The team opens its season at home on April 28 at 7 p.m. at the Asbury Park Convention Center. "I never played for money. My reward was playing with Michael Jordan and sitting in the locker room with all these guys like Dr. J. I grew up admiring." As for the players on the ShoreCats, the only thing they can do is tell them what they need to do to get to where he's already been.

"I can't make them run eight miles a day or hit the weights, but what I can do is advise them that if they do this and prepare themselves it will pay off." He

said, "If you're lazy at home you'll be lazy at work. I still workout and run in races. As long as I feel good and I feel healthy and strong, I can bring that energy to the floor when I coach," said Grant. It is important to him to put a team on the floor each night that is ready to play to its fullest potential and let the wins and losses fall where they may.

"I really feel good about Greg and our coaching staff," said Spiro Michals the president of the ShoreCats. The coaching staff includes player coach, Marshall Grier, who is the basketball coach at Passaic High School, and assistant coach Mike Gatley, who formerly coached the USBL team in Atlantic City, has known Grant for many years.

"His (Grant) value is that where these guys want to go, he did it without a name, said Gatley. "If you're good enough they'll find you. His knowledge of the pro game par's anybody's."

The ShoreCats, which put up a 19-9 season last year, of course will be looking to improve their record and bring home a championship. And it's looking like with Grant at the helm - anything is possible. *For ticket information call (732) 922-1090*

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